

**“Confidence when Life is Challenging” – Part 2:
Resilience in Difficult Times
Mount of Olives | January 11, 2026 | Philippians 3:7-16
Pastor John Steward**

Prayer of the Day

Heavenly Father, even as a new year brings us new hope, our challenges remain, and some adversities threaten to cripple us. Help us to trust in You in all circumstances, knowing that You will never leave us. In Jesus name, Amen.

Scripture Reading

Philippians 3:7-16

Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus. Let those of us then who are mature be of the same mind; and if you think differently about anything, this too God will reveal to you. Only let us hold fast to what we have attained.

Message Notes

Philippians 3:7-11

Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

Philippians 3:12-16

Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus. Let those of us then who are mature be of the same mind; and if you think differently about anything, this too God will reveal to you. Only let us hold fast to what we have attained.

Study Questions

Read Philippians 3:7-16

ICEBREAKER – Getting started:

1. What is something you once thought was very important but later realized mattered much less?
2. What helps you stay motivated when learning or growing in a difficult area?
3. When you think about “success,” what images or ideas come to mind?

Based on Philippians 3:7-16, answer the following questions:**OBSERVATION – What does the text say?**

1. As you read **Philippians 3:7-16**, what comes to mind? What stands out? What is interesting to you and why?
2. In one sentence, how would you summarize this text?
3. What lesson or message do you think the author is trying to convey?

INTERPRETATION – What does the text mean?

1. What does Paul say he now considers “loss” in verses 7–8? Why is this significant given his background?
2. How does Paul define what is truly “gain”?
3. What does Paul mean by “the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord” (v. 8)?
4. Why does Paul contrast righteousness from the law with righteousness that comes through faith in Christ (v. 9)?
5. In verses 10–11, what does Paul say he wants to “know” about Christ?
6. What does participation in Christ’s sufferings mean in this passage?
7. How does Paul describe the resurrection hope in verse 11?
8. Why does Paul emphasize that he has not yet “obtained” or “arrived” (v. 12)?
9. What does Paul mean when he says he is “pressing on”?
10. How does the image of forgetting what lies behind and straining forward (v. 13) help explain the Christian life?
11. What is “the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus” (v. 14)?
12. How does Paul encourage unity and maturity among believers in verses 15–16?

APPLICATION – How can you apply the text?

1. What are some things in your life that might compete with “the surpassing value of knowing Christ”?
2. How do you personally experience the tension between “already” belonging to Christ and “not yet” being fully mature?
3. What might it look like for you to “press on” in your faith right now?
4. How can this passage encourage you when spiritual growth feels slow or difficult?